

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

GERALDINA C. ROGERS, R.N.  
License # 26NR12565000

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Geraldina C. Rogers ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about July 31, 2013, the Dean of Rutgers School of Nursing advised the Division of Consumer Affairs and the Board of Nursing that Respondent, a student in the Masters Program at Rutgers School of Nursing until July 24, 2013, had committed certain ethical breaches, in that she had falsified patient records and submitted them for credit in her clinical practicum experience; falsified a physician preceptor's evaluation of her activity and submitted it for credit in her clinical practicum experience; and forged a physician's signature on official documents, and submitted them as part of her clinical practicum experience.

3. Respondent voluntarily withdrew from Rutgers School of Nursing and signed an agreement to that effect on July 24, 2013.

4. Respondent submitted a midterm clinical evaluation form to Rutgers reflecting that she had undergone 81.7 hours of clinical rotation with Dr. Arthur Cabales, although she had not worked under Dr. Cabales. She admitted that she signed Dr. Caballes's name without his authorization to that evaluation form.

5. Respondent admitted that she made entries into the Rutgers School of Nursing Student Tracking System ("Typhon" entries) reflecting that she had worked a clinical rotation with Dr. Dorothy Ourvan from June 26, 2013 through July 9, 2013, although Dr. Ourvan did not work with her. Instead, Respondent maintained that she "shadowed" another medical provider.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Respondent's signing of Dr. Cabales's signature on her evaluation form without the doctor's authorization, and respondent's entry of inaccurate information into the Rutgers tracking system with regard to her working with Dr. Cabales and Dr. Ourvan, constitute a pattern of misrepresentation and deception in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on November 7, 2014 seeking a two year suspension (one year active, one year stayed to be served as a period of probation), completion of a professional problem-based ethics program such as ProBE, reprimand, three thousand dollar (\$3000) civil penalty, and the requirement that Respondent notify any school that she attends of any Final Order issued in this matter. Copies were served upon

Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline and expressed remorse for her conduct. She maintains that she became overwhelmed as a single mother of two young children while she was attending school part-time for her Masters and working full time. She maintains that she did not mean to be deceptive, but she panicked at the prospect of not completing the required hours for the summer semester. She also claims she wasn't thinking clearly. Instead of communicating with her professor, she falsified documents and submissions to make it seem like she completed the required hours. Respondent hopes that she can return to finish her Masters at another University at some time in the future. However, for now, Respondent represents that she is unemployed and experiencing financial difficulties.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. The Board was not persuaded that Respondent's reply to the Provisional Order warranted modification of the Provisional Order. Respondent asked for a reduction of

the civil penalty and pleaded for the Board to not take her license away from her. The Board considers Respondent's conduct and breach of ethics to be significant. Had Respondent succeeded, she would have obtained a Master's Degree from Rutgers University School of Nursing that she had not truly earned. Further, the degree earned as a result of the fraud and deception could have formed the basis for a license as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN).

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this** 7 **day of** April **, 2015,**  
**ORDERED that:**

1. Respondent's nursing license is hereby suspended for a minimum of two years, with one year of the suspension to be actively served, commencing on the date of this filed Final Order of Discipline, and the remaining year of suspension to be stayed and served as a period of probation. Respondent shall petition the Board in writing to have the period of active suspension terminated and to commence the stayed suspension/period of probation. After the stayed suspension/period of probation is complete, Respondent shall again petition the Board in writing to have the stayed suspension/period of probation lifted.

2. Respondent shall, during the period of active suspension, complete a professional problem-based ethics program (ProBE) pre-approved by the Board. Respondent's nursing license shall remain under active suspension until she is able to document satisfactory completion of the ProBE course.

3. Respondent shall be required to present a copy of the Final Order of Discipline in this matter to any educational institution that she applies to or is currently

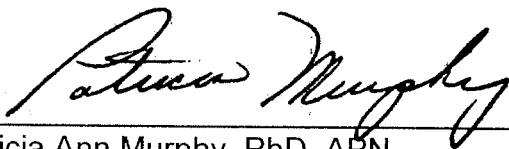
attending in order to obtain credentials as a nurse practitioner or otherwise further her career in nursing.

4. A reprimand is hereby imposed for Respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

5. A three thousand dollar (\$3000) civil penalty is hereby imposed upon Respondent for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b). Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law. The Board will not grant any petition to lift the stayed suspension/period of probation until Respondent has paid the within civil penalty in full.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
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Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President